



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING

PO Box 8119 San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-8119

Kathleen Bellefontaine,
Chair/ Member at Large

Maryanne Zarycka
District 1 Representative

Alice York
District 2 Representative

Anita Shower
District 3 Representative

Judy Mishoulam
District 4 Representative

Shirley Summers
District 5 Representative

Julie Cox
Area Agency on Aging, Board

Karen Jones
Long Term Care Ombudsman

Elias Nimeh
Senior Nutrition Program

Brittany Carraway
Senior Service Provider

Roger Randall
Member at Large

Carol Schmidt
Member at Large

Marilyn Hamilton
Vice Chair/ Member at Large

Myra Lathrop
Member at Large

Thomas Clough
Alternate Member at Large

Rick Cohen
Alternate Member at Large

Peta Rimington
Alternate Member at Large

SLOCountyDistrictAttorney

SLOCountyMentalHealth

SLOCountySocialServices

San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Dear Supervisors:

In accordance with the Bylaws of the SLO County Commission on Aging (SLOCOA), Section 3-f, I hereby submit the annual report for Term Year 2015-16 (July-June), Projected Goals, and Priority Issues for Term Year 2016-17.

The Commission meets every third Friday of the month (excluding December) at the Veteran's Memorial Building in San Luis Obispo. Our liaison and Department of Social Services (DSS) Director, Lee Collins, has identified a representative from Adult Services who attends SLOCOA meetings and keeps members updated on DSS ability to meet the needs of the most vulnerable population. Additionally, DSS Administrative Support assists in reporting SLOCOA affairs to the Board of Supervisors, maintains the SLOCOA website, and provides additional support when needed.

Our Commissioners serve and represent senior groups throughout the County. In addition to the Supervisors' appointees, we have representatives from local agencies such as the Area Agency on Aging, the District Attorney's Office/ Victim Witness Program, County Mental Health, Senior Nutrition, and, most recently, the County Long Term Care Ombudsman. Our Members At-Large are Senior advocates, informed about a variety of senior concerns. These concerns include, but are not limited to: housing matters, delivery of support services, senior centers, volunteerism, mental and physical health, financial "scams", and identification theft. Our members serve without compensation for travel and time.

SLOCOA Goals 2015-16

Progress in achieving two major SLOCOA goals in 2015-2016

[Continue to collect information from Seniors about their concerns and their solutions](#)

MEDIA:

This year, Senior Volunteer Services began posting SLOCOA programs and membership openings in a weekly email "blast".

Member Rick Cohen, is working with Tolosa Press to include a "Senior Moments" section in their publications, with contributions submitted by SLOCOA.

- The SLOCOA website continues to provide current information regarding monthly meetings, membership and annual reports. Inquiries from the public via the website are addressed by The Chair.
- The SLOCOA informational “rack” card is reviewed and revised on a regular basis.
- The Tribune posts SLOCOA presentations and meetings in the Senior Section.
- Senior Centers, Libraries and Members of the public are sent notice of upcoming events and presentations (upon request), electronically.

INPUT FROM COMMUNITY AGENCIES:

- Senior Centers: SLOCOA members volunteer or interact at Centers; keeping up to date with their member’s concerns.
- Senior Group Venues: Invitations to speak allow SLOCOA presenters to hear direct comments from their audience about Senior concerns. Please see Attachment A—for full details of interaction with these numerous agencies.

Continue to provide relevant and timely information to The Board of Supervisors

This is accomplished through communication between Appointees and their Supervisors; speaking at BOS meetings on legislative issues important to Seniors; as well as sending letters of advocacy to the Supervisors. See Attachment A for details.

SLOCOA Priority Issues 2015-16

Issues addressed by Commissioners included

- 1) Exploring new ideas and updating past ideas for affordable Senior housing;
- 2) Update on mental health services for the aging;
- 3) Disaster preparedness for Seniors;
- 4) Strengthening outreach for those who may feel isolated and lonely;
- 5) Researching Care Management provided by insurance companies.

See Attachment A - for details about how these issues were addressed throughout the year.

SLOCOA Chair Summary

Without the SLOCOA Executive Committee, their advisement and commitment, the progress that SLOCOA has made would not have been possible. Alice York, Anita Shower, Myra Lathrop, Marilyn Hamilton and Marie Pounders, I applaud you!

Marie Pounders passed away, November 27, 2015, but her knowledge of the housing challenges that face many Seniors (particularly in mobile home parks of The County), and her wisdom in working with County government remains. She has been foundational to the following achievements that SLOCOA has made this fiscal year.

We have:

- improved outreach at Supervisor meetings in which transportation and/or housing grants are on the agenda; speaking out about the special need for medical transport out of The County.
- been included as a Stakeholder in the early stages of planning for transportation

coordination in order to help Seniors navigate the many transit systems.

- written advocacy to address a need for more mental health beds and additional funding for home renovation.
- increased attendance at community meetings in which Senior input is vital; particularly meeting topics that include housing and transportation needs, housing projects, or information on Real Cost Measurements for basic necessities in SLO County.
- maintained strong connections with Senior Centers.
- continued partnership with the Central Coast Hearing Loss Association of America, of which SLOCOA District 2 Representative, Alice York, is a Board Member.
- increased partnering. New member and Senior Volunteer Services Board Chair, Tom Clough, has encouraged more “partnering”, which prompted SLOCOA to utilize Senior Volunteer Services as a resource to advertise SLOCOA meetings.
- provided relevant presentations at SLOCOA monthly meetings to address major needs and issues currently facing seniors.

Yes, I think that Marie would be quite pleased with our progress this year and highly supportive of our new goals for 2016-17. Please review The New Projected Goals 16/17 attachment of this report. You will find that our goals have changed from previous years. After many years focused on data collection and the evaluation of data collected by relative organizations such as The United Way, UCLA, California Elder Index, etc., we believe that we have identified the key issues facing Seniors today. We are confident that we know what critical issues our expanding Senior population is facing. **Furthermore, now is the time to increase public awareness of these issues.**

In closing, I would like to say to the Board of Supervisors and your SLOCOA representatives -- Frank Mecham (I wish you well) and Maryanne Zarycka, Bruce Gibson and Alice York, Adam Hill and Anita Shower; Lynn Compton and Judy Mishoulam; Debbie Arnold and Shirley Summers- your respect and support for the County Commission on Aging has given the Seniors of this community a stronger voice. I am thankful for YOU!

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bellefontaine
Chairperson
SLO County Commission on Aging
cc: DSS